

This study provides baseline information on the blue crab pot and trawl fisheries in the Pamlico-River complex. The data collected during this study indicates that the crab trawl fishery was not a major factor contributing to the recent decline of blue crab production in this system. However, as with all trawl fisheries, efficiency needs to be improved. The manipulation of tailbag sizes, and area and seasonal trawling restrictions would minimize the impact that crab trawls are having on the fishery resources in the Pamlico River complex. In order to optimize yield for the blue crab resource it is imperative that steps be taken to: 1) reduce wasteful harvest practices in the crab pot and trawl fisheries; and 2) initiate research on the population dynamics of the blue crab in the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary.